

April 22, 1999

Jo Turner
Resources Agency
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Room 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Agreement No. B81643 Subject: SJR Genetic Baseline & Discrimination

Dear Jo:

This letter is my Quarterly Report for CALFED Project No. B81643, SJR Genetic Baseline & Discrimination, for the Quarter ending April 15, 1999.

Because the Department of Fish and Game and the CALFED Program took so long to get the contract details worked out and signed off, my schedule is way behind what I initially had envisioned for this project. I had initially planned on completing Phase I Task 1 of my project, "negotiating sub-contract with an academic institution to perform the actual genetic analysis", during September 1998 through December, 1998. Instead, I was not authorized to proceed with this project until December, 1998. I did however, complete Phase I Task 2, which was to "collect fin ray tissue samples from fresh adult salmon carcasses recovered during spawning escapement surveys in the San Joaquin River Basin" without CALFED funding. Phase I Task 3, "analyze the spawning escapement survey data and provide CALFED program with a preliminary spawning escapement report summarizing the San Joaquin River Basin fall-run chinook salmon escapement", is also slightly behind schedule. Preliminary spawning escapement estimates have been made for each of the tributaries. The preliminary San Joaquin River Basin preliminary spawning escapement estimates and genetic sample sizes are as follows:

<u>River</u>	<u>Preliminary Estimates</u>			<u># of</u> <u>Fin ray</u> <u>Samples</u>
	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Grilse</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Stanislaus River	1,409	827	2,236	56
Tuolumne River	4,906	3,010	7,916	264
Merced River	2,482	872	3,354	191
<u>Merced River Hatchery</u>	<u>418</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>799</u>	<u>212</u>
SJR Basin Totals	9,789	5,427	15,216	723

I have initiated Phase I Task 1 with Dr. Bernie May at the Genomic Variation Laboratory, U.C. Davis. We have developed an Interagency Agreement for his lab to conduct the actual genetic analysis and have submitted it to the Department of Fish and Game administration for processing. Currently, it looks like it will take until sometime in May before all the paper work for this Interagency Agreement will be completed and Dr. Bernie May will be able to initiate his scope of work.

We were able to collect the fin ray tissue samples this past fall without having to use any additional staff (funded through CALFED). However, I did use 20 Scientific Aid hours to organize the samples and conduct a quality control of the samples and sample data sheets before forwarding the samples to the Central Valley Bay-Delta Chinook Salmon Genetic Tissue Archive in the Region 2 office in Rancho Cordova for storage. I do not know just yet if the Department will be producing an invoice for this expenditure for the CALFED Proposition 204 Account for this quarter or next quarter. I am still checking on this. I may still need to use some of my budget in Phase I Task 2 to help prepare scale samples so I can finish the 1998 preliminary spawning escapement report for the San Joaquin River Basin in the next quarter.

I will be preparing a formal letter in the near future for CALFED requesting a change in my schedule or time-line as a result of the above delays in implementing this project. Let me know if this is sufficient information for your reporting for this quarter. If you have any further questions or need more detail information on any of the three tasks for Phase I of my project please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

W. George Neillands
Associate Biologist (M/F)
CDFG San Joaquin & South Sierra Region
SJR Anadromous Fish project